

Subject: Next step?

Date: Thursday, 3 December 2009 at 13:56:30 Greenwich Mean Time

From: Mike Mew

To:



CC: 'john mew'

Dear Executives and trustees of the BOS

Where are we with all this and how we might move forward? I am concerned that the profession will come into disrepute if it is seen to be actively avoiding or suppressing the discussion on Orthotropics or the aetiology of malocclusion

The leaders of all professions have a duty to the public to give a valid assessment of any new ideas and concepts, especially when they come from someone who is undeniably well published, has a large international following and has close relationships with many leading figures across the profession. And even some of you would consider a friend.

Many of you have had discussions with my father on a range of topics: you must therefore have an opinion on whether he gave well supported arguments or was knowledgeable. However, he has never actually been allowed to give a full account of his ideas to the orthodontic community, and at his age does not have much time left in which to do so. Therefore, unless you are convinced that you understand his ideas sufficiently in order to be able to dismiss their merit entirely and unless you are convinced that the profession has nothing whatsoever to gain from him and his ideas, you should be doing all you can to expedite and accelerate the path towards full discussion, rather than seeking to frustrate or suppress it with the risk that the opportunity to accurately review one of the profession's greatest lateral thinkers be lost entirely.

In a science that is far from exact and where there are such large gaps in the understanding of malocclusion it would take great arrogance and even greater folly to dismiss new ideas, especially when you have a duty to the public to give a valid assessment of their merit. I am concerned though that the leaders of this profession lack a sufficient level of understanding of my father's ideas in order to be in a position to give constructive criticism or make a valid assessment of their merit, which makes the argument for a broader and more inclusive debate all the more compelling. Many of you do not see the stark separation between Orthotropics and functional therapy.

Following our previous conversation (23rd June) I am waiting on a response from you with regard to sending a mass email to find an opponent for a debate on the aetiology of malocclusion. I am now appealing to you on a formal basis as leaders of the profession to find me an opponent for a debate that is long overdue. While I would welcome your participation in the debate I do understand that you do not have a responsibility to participate personally in it, but you do have a responsibility as a professional organisation to facilitate it – whatever your ideological beliefs. So could you possibly send a mass email out for me, in which I could set out the basis for the debate and seek an opponent?

My Father is 81 now, please give me some consideration in my urgency and excess my frustration with the lack of progress.

Mike